



# COTTONWOOD

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

To: Montana Secretary of State's Office, Elections, and Voter Services  
From: Montana Rivers, Gallatin Wildlife Association, Cottonwood Envtl.  
Law Center  
Date: 12/3/21  
Re: Draft Ballot Issue

Dear Secretary Jacobsen,

Montana Rivers, Gallatin Wildlife Association, and Cottonwood Environmental Law Center respectfully submit the following draft ballot issue for your review and acceptance. The groups seek to have the following ballot language included on the November 2022 ballot.

I will be serving as the contact person for the proponents as we move through the process of having the language accepted and collecting the necessary voter signatures.

Best regards,

/s/ John Meyer  
JOHN MEYER

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**Initiative to Designate Sections of the Gallatin and Madison Rivers as Outstanding Resource Waters and to Amend the Outstanding Resource Water Statute.**

Purpose: The purpose of this initiative is to designate sections of the Gallatin and Madison Rivers as Outstanding Resource Waters and to amend the Montana Outstanding Resource Water statute, Montana Code Annotated § 75-5-316. The section of the Gallatin to be designated as an Outstanding Resource Water is from the boundary of Yellowstone National Park to the Confluence of Spanish Creek. The section of the Madison River to be designated is from the boundary of Hebgen Lake to Ennis Lake.

Implication: The initiative designates the identified sections of the Gallatin and Madison Rivers as Outstanding Resource Waters and amends the Outstanding Resource Water statute to prohibit the Montana Department of Environmental Quality from issuing any permit that will result in any adverse change in the water quality of the designated waterbody, regardless of whether the change is permanent or temporary.

(YES) The Outstanding Resource Water statute should be amended and the Gallatin River from the boundary of Yellowstone National Park to the confluence of Spanish Creek and the Madison River from the boundary of Hebgen Lake to Ennis Lake should be designated as Outstanding Resource Waters.

(NO) The Outstanding Resource Water statute should not be amended and the Gallatin River from the boundary of Yellowstone National Park to the confluence of Spanish Creek and the Madison River from the boundary of Hebgen Lake to Ennis Lake should not be designated as Outstanding Resource Waters.

**FULL INITIATIVE TEXT**

**Amended Section. MCA §75-5-316(2)(b):**

**The Department may not:**

Allow a new or increased point source discharge or functional equivalent that would result in any temporary or permanent adverse water quality of an outstanding resource water.

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**New Section MCA §75-5-316 (12):**

(12) The following surface waters are classified as outstanding resource waters:

- (a) Gallatin River from the boundary of Yellowstone National Park to the confluence of Spanish Peaks.
- (b) Madison River from Hebgen Lake to Ennis Lake.